

State Energy Policy Review

NAE Interim Committee | November 17, 2020

63M-4-301. State energy policy.

- (1) It is the policy of the state that:
 - (a) Utah shall have adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean energy resources;
 - (b) Utah will promote the development of:
 - (i) nonrenewable energy resources, including natural gas, coal, oil, oil shale, and oil sands;
 - (ii) renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, wind, biomass, biofuel, and hydroelectric;
 - (iii) nuclear power generation technologies certified for use by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission including molten salt reactors producing medical isotopes;
 - (iv) alternative transportation fuels and technologies;
 - (v) infrastructure to facilitate energy development, diversified modes of transportation, greater access to domestic and international markets for Utah's resources, and advanced transmission systems;
 - (vi) energy storage and other advanced energy systems; and
 - (vii) increased refinery capacity;
 - (c) Utah will promote the development of resources and infrastructure sufficient to meet the state's growing demand, while contributing to the regional and national energy supply, thus reducing dependence on international energy sources;
 - (d) Utah will allow market forces to drive prudent use of energy resources, although incentives and other methods may be used to ensure the state's optimal development and use of energy resources in the short- and long-term;
 - (e) Utah will pursue energy conservation, energy efficiency, and environmental quality;
 - (f) (i) state regulatory processes should be streamlined to balance economic costs with the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests; and
(ii) where federal action is required, Utah will encourage expedited federal action and will collaborate with federal agencies to expedite review;
 - (g) Utah will maintain an environment that provides for stable consumer prices that are as low as possible while providing producers and suppliers a fair return on investment, recognizing that:
 - (i) economic prosperity is linked to the availability, reliability, and affordability of consumer energy supplies; and
 - (ii) investment will occur only when adequate financial returns can be realized; and
 - (h) Utah will promote training and education programs focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of energy, including:
 - (i) programs addressing:
 - (A) energy conservation;
 - (B) energy efficiency;
 - (C) supply and demand; and
 - (D) energy related workforce development; and
 - (ii) energy education programs in grades K-12.
- (2) State agencies are encouraged to conduct agency activities consistent with Subsection (1).
- (3) A person may not file suit to challenge a state agency's action that is inconsistent with Subsection (1).

63M-4-302. Legislative committee review.

The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee shall review the state energy policy annually and propose any changes to the Legislature.